

DEPARTMENT OF BENEFIT PAYMENTS

June 5, 1974



REFER TO:

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 74-101

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM - CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR POSSIBLE ELIGIBILITY OF SSI/SSP RECIPIENTS TO RECEIVE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM BENEFITS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1974

The purpose of this letter is to keep you informed regarding the impact of federal legislation on your food stamp operation as it relates to adult aid recipients.

When Public Law 92-603 (HR 1) was enacted on October 30, 1972, it precluded any SSI/SSP recipient from receiving Food Stamp Program benefits. States were allowed instead to provide cash in lieu of food stamps at federal expense, and California was one of five States that subsequently acted to provide these cash-out benefits.

On August 10, 1973, Public Law 93-86 was enacted amending the cash-out concept. While the cash-out for all SSI/SSP recipients would continue at federal expense, some individual SSI/SSP recipients would be allowed also to receive Food Stamp Program benefits. Determinations of food stamp eligibility under the provision of PL 93-86, if it is not amended, will be extremely complex. To illustrate, if an aged SSI/SSP recipient applies for food stamps after June 30th under the provisions of PL 93-86, the eligibility worker will need to do the following:

1. Compute a hypothetical grant based on the now defunct December 1973 State Plan for OAS.
2. Compute a hypothetical food stamp budget to determine bonus coupon entitlement based primarily on the hypothetical OAS grant.
3. Add the hypothetical OAS and food stamp benefits described above.
4. Determine from the Social Security Administration what will be the recipient's current and future SSI/SSP entitlements.
5. If the hypothetical "old" entitlements are greater than the new SSI/SSP entitlements, then go on to another complete computation for current and future food stamp entitlements.

Superseded by

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Because of the complexities described above, Public Law 93-233 was enacted effective December 31, 1973 to suspend these awkward provisions of PL 93-86 for the six-month period ending June 30, 1974.

If the Congress does not act before July 1, 1974, the provisions of Public Law 93-86 will automatically be effective on that date. We are making contingency plans at the State level to provide appropriate instruction as timely as possible in the event that Congress does not act prior to July 1, 1974. Because of the very serious implications for county workload requirements, you also may wish to begin some contingency planning.

Because of the very serious implications of possible congressional inaction, a concerted effort is being made to seek legislative relief. Legislation has been introduced in both houses of Congress to remedy this situation. I will keep you informed regarding the outcome of these efforts. I know that we can count on your support if necessary to push this legislation through.

Sincerely,

DAVID B. SWOAP
Director

cc: USDA, FNS
CWDA